

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 SS-14 NEA-10 NSC-10 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-09 NSAE-00

RSC-01 OPIC-12 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01

OMB-01 RSR-01 CCO-00 AGR-20 OIC-04 /176 W

----- 052740

R 141740 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3876

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E. O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJ: OECD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEW STYLE

REF: A. STATE 41984; B. BONN 3492; C. BONN 2866

1. SUMMARY: WE MADE OUR REPRESENTATION ON THE UPCOMING XCNS TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEEG, WHO WILL HEAD THE GERMAN DELEGATION. FRAU STEEG, A NEW AND IMPORTANT FIGURE IN THE FORMULATION OF FRG TRADE POLICY (REFTEL B), ADVISED THAT THE FRG POSITIONS DURING THE MARCH 19-20 MEETING WOULD BE SIMILAR TO OURS ON MOST ISSUES, EXCEPT AGRICULTURE. SHE AGREED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF A SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS THAT WOULD PREPARE THE WAY FOR PROGRESS IN THE SCNS' S WORK ON INVESTMENT AND THE TRADE COMMITTEE' S EFFORTS ON SAFEGUARDS. SHE SAID THE FRG WOULD SUPPORT THE CREATION OF THE AD HOC GROUP. SHE WAS VERY NEGATIVE, HOWEVER, ON THE AGRICULTURAL STUDY BY OUTSIDE EXPERTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTEL A, WE DISCUSSED THE UPCOMING XCNS MEETING WITH THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY' S NEWLY APPOINTED ASSISTANT SECRETARY FRAU STEEG. RITTMAYER (OECD AFFAIRS) AND ABEL (INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY AFFAIRS) ALSO PARTICIPATED. FRAU STEEG WAS GENERALLY FORTHCOMING AND HELPFUL IN HER COMMENTS, DISPLAYED A FIRM GRIP ON HER NEW AREAS OF COMPETENCE, AND GAVE THE GENERAL IMPRESSION OF SELF- ASSURANCE. THE XCNS MEETING AFFORDS AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY FOR FRAU STEEG TO MEET KEY U. S. OFFICIALS.

3. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GERMAN DELEGATION TO THE MARCH 19-20 MEETING WILL INCLUDE LAUTENSCHLAGER (FOREIGN OFFICE, EUROPEAN INTEGRATION), RITTMAYER, AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE FINANCE MINISTRY.

4. IN RESPONDING TO OUR REPRESENTATION, FRAU STEEG PROVIDED THE PRELIMINARY FRG THINKING REGARDING THE UPCOMING MEETING; THE FORMAL POSITION WILL BE WORKED OUT LATE IN THE WEEK, BUT SHE DOES NOT EXPECT ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES.

5. THE FRG RESPONSE TO OUR REPRESENTATIONS ON SPECIFIC ITEMS FOLLOWS:

A) AGENDA ITEM 1 - INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS SITUATION
OUR SOURCES INDICATED GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE DESIRABILITY FOR QUICKER PROGRESS IN THE OECD' S RELATED WORK ON INVESTMENT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAFEGUARDS AND NTB' S BUT NOT AGRICULTURE.

B) AGENDA ITEM 2 - INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT
THE FRG WILL HAVE NO DIFFICULTY WITH THE SECRETARIAT' S PROPOSALS ON DIRECT INVESTMENT. IT AGREES THAT THE SUBJECT OF MNCS AND DIRECT INVESTMENT NEEDS ADDITIONAL STUDY TO FILL IN THE GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE FORMULATION OF PRINCIPLES AND UNDERSTANDINGS AMONG NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS.

STEEG CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT THE STUDY SHOULD NOT BE " OVERLY AMBITIOUS" SO THAT IT DOES NOT END UP AS AN " UNUSED DESK STUDY". SINCE IT IS DIFFICULT FOR GOVERNMENTS TO CONTROL THE OPERATIONS OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY, SHE THINKS NEXT WEEK' S MEETING SHOULD SEEK TO DEFINE BROADLY THE EXTENT OF THE STUDY, LEAVING THE DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT AT THE NEXT MEETING. SHE IMPLIED THAT AN FRG STATEMENT REGARDING ITS POLICIES ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT COULD BE READY FOR THE NEXT MEETING. SHE ALSO CONFIRMED FRG SUPPORT FOR THE AD HOC GROUP AND THE NEED FOR IT TO PRODUCE EARLY CONCLUSIONS.

C) ITEM 3 - SAFEGUARD CLAUSE AND STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT POLICIES

A. OUR SOURCES PRAISED THE SECRETARIAT' S PAPER ON SAFEGUARDS. THEY SAID THEIR EARLIER MISGIVINGS REGARDING POSSIBLE DUPLICATION OF WORK BEING DONE IN THE GATT HAD BEEN OVERCOME. THE FRG WAS NOW PREPARED TO ADMIT THAT THE OECD COULD PERFORM A USEFUL FUNCTION IN GIVING AN " OVERALL VIEW" TO THE SUBJECT. RITTMAYER COMMENTED THAT CARE MUST STILL BE TAKEN TO AVOID INTERFERENCE WITH GATT AND ENVISIONED THE OECD SAFEGUARD STUDY AS BEING MORE IN THE CONTEXT OF STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENTS.

B. STEEG AND RITTMAYER DID NOT RPT NOT EXPECT THE XCNS MEETING TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE TO THE TRADE COMMITTEE ON SAFEGUARDS. THE MANDATE AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE TRADE COMMITTEE ITSELF, THEY SAID.

C. STEEG GAVE A FLAT " NO" TO OUR REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL FOR OUTSIDE EXPERTS TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF LIBERALIZATION IN AGRICULTURE. SHE SAID THAT FOR POLITICAL, AS WELL AS ECONOMIC REASONS, AGRICULTURE MUST BE DEALT WITH IN THE GATT. STEEG ADMITTED THAT AN ASSESSMENT BY OUTSIDE EXPERTS MIGHT BE HELPFUL AT A LATER DATE, BUT EMPHATICALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HELD THAT IT WAS PREMATURE NOW. TO " START DOWN A ROAD THAT WILL LEAD NOWHERE" WOULD BE HARMFUL, SHE SAID, FOR IT WOULD AROUSE THE " SLEEPING PROTECTIONIST WOLVES" BETTER LEFT SLUMBERING FOR THE TIME BEING. SHE SAID SHE WAS NOT RULING OUT DISCUSSION ON AGRICULTURE IN THE FUTURE, BUT GAVE NOTICE THAT THE GERMANS WOULD OPPOSE SUCH DISCUSSION AT THE MARCH 19-20 XCNS MEETING.

D. THE FRG AGREES THAT THE TRADE COMMITTEE SHOULD DEAL WITH NTB' S AND SHOULD PREPARE A REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

E. STEEG NOTED THAT THE FRG DID NOT REGARD THE OECD AS THE BEST FORUM TO DISCUSS EAST/ WEST TRADE. CARE HAD TO BE TAKEN

NOT TO DUPLICATE THE WORK OF ECE. ON THE OTHER HAND, STEEG REPEATED MINISTER FRIDERICH'S DESIRE TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT MORE FULLY ON A BILATERAL FRG- US BASIS (REFTEL C). STEEG EMPHASIZED THAT, UNTIL THE WESTERN STATES ARE READY TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF COMPETITION ON CREDIT TERMS, VERY LITTLE PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE IN AGREEING TO A COMMON ATTITUDE TOWARD EAST/ WEST TRADE.

D) ITEM 4 - DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

RITTMAYER STATED THAT THE MAIN TASK OF THE SECRETARIAT IN THIS AREA IS TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR BETTER COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TRADE COMMITTEE AND DAC. THE FRG, HE SAID, WOULD NOT OBJECT TO COMMON SESSIONS OF THE TWO COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO TALK ABOUT SPECIFICS.
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CANBERRA
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN

THE HAGUE
HELSINKI
LISBON
LONDON
LUXEMBOURG
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